

## **Historic, archived document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



41  
752

The

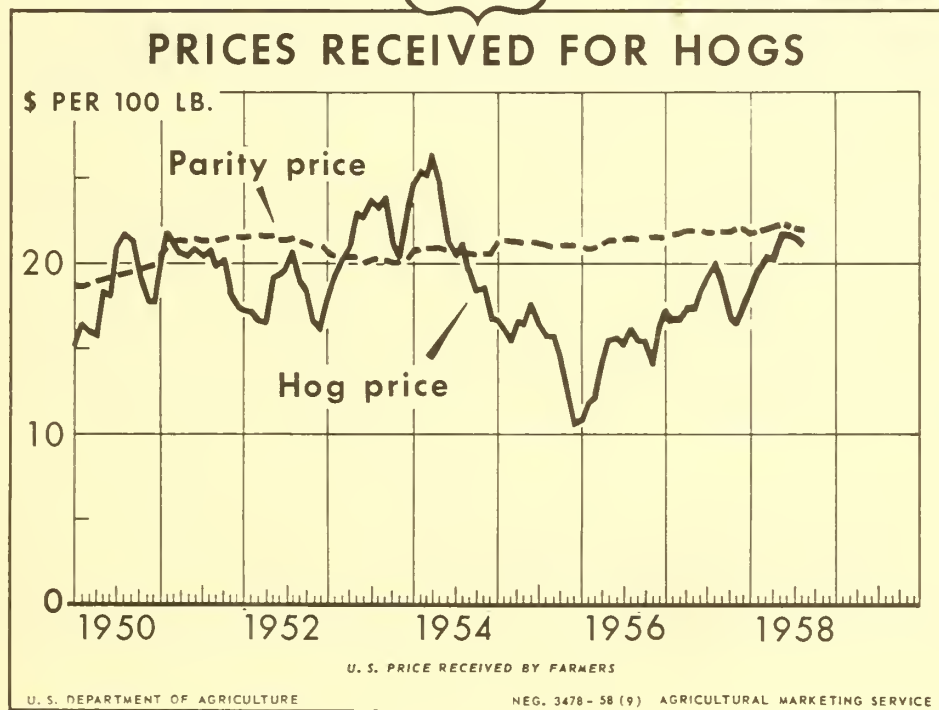
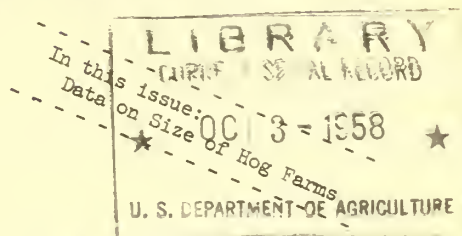
SEPTEMBER 1958

FOR RELEASE

OCT. 1, P. M.

# LIVESTOCK and MEAT SITUATION

LMS-98



Prices of hogs more than doubled from their late 1955 low to their mid-1958 high. Now a decline is impending.

Hog production started upward fast in the fall of 1958. In 9 States, producers plan for 20 percent more Decem-

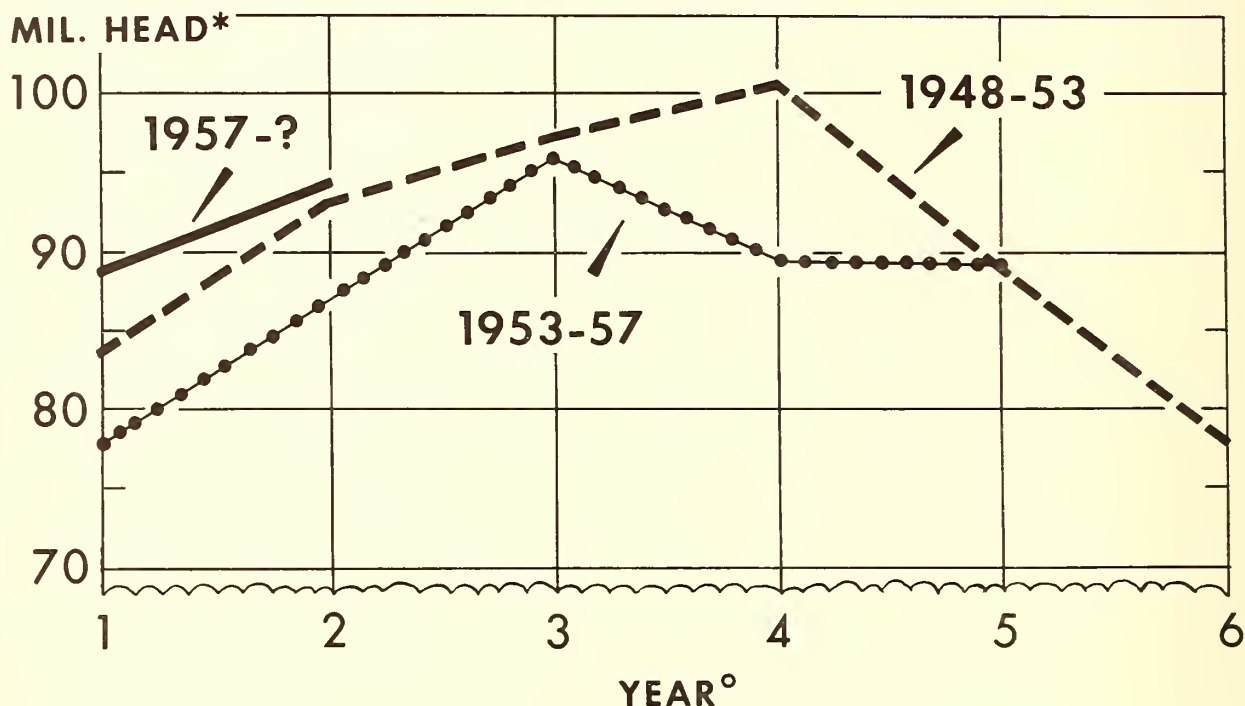
ber-February farrowings. If the total spring crop should be up almost this much, prices next fall might drop as low as in 1955. A more moderate increase would allow prices to remain appreciably higher than then.

Published bimonthly by

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

## PIG CROPS, BY CYCLES, POSTWAR



\* SPRING AND FALL CROPS COMBINED  
 ° YEAR IN CYCLE, BEGINNING FROM LOW POINT

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 6057-58 (9) AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

Production of hogs has shown a cyclical tendency in recent years. Up-swings and downswings in annual pig crops have usually lasted two or three years.

The larger pig crops of 1958, and the further increase expected in 1959, are in line with this pattern. The crops of 1959 will likely exceed 100 million head.

-----  
 T H E L I V E S T O C K A N D M E A T S I T U A T I O N  
 -----

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, September 25, 1958

SUMMARY

Average prices received by farmers and cash receipts from sales of meat animals are higher this year than in any year since 1954. Next year, prices of cattle will continue fairly high but prices of hogs will be lower.

Cattle numbers next January 1 will be near the high mark reached in 1956. In 1960 and later years, numbers probably will set successive new highs. Since the inventory expansion still is in the initial stage, marketings in 1959 are not likely to increase much. But if the build up in numbers is rapid, expansion in marketings later would be large and prices could fall sharply.

Production of hogs started upward this fall and will continue upward in 1959. Last June, hog producers expected to increase their 1958 fall farrowings 13 percent. A report from 9 States in September indicated they were fulfilling their plans and even exceeding them slightly. Hogs from the fall crop will arrive at markets beginning early in 1959. Prices of hogs this fall are expected to decline at only about the normal seasonal rate -- they may average about the same as last fall. But prices during the winter will show little or no seasonal recovery, and prices thereafter will be appreciably lower than in corresponding periods of 1958.

In September producers in 9 States planned a 20 percent gain in December-February farrowings. This may overstate the prospective increase in the spring total, as a further shift to early farrowing dates may be occurring. But a substantial rise in the total 1959 spring pig crop seems probable.

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Summary .....	3
Review and Outlook .....	4
The Hog Situation .....	4
Data on Size of Hog Farms .....	14

Prices of hogs in the fall of 1959 are almost certain to drop to their lowest point since the fall of 1955. How nearly they approach that low mark depends on how much the total spring crop is increased. If the total crop should be up by close to the 20 percent in view for the first 3 months, prices next fall would be in grave danger of falling to the \$10.60 they reached in the fall of 1955. If the expansion should be moderate, prices would probably remain above that low point by an appreciable margin.

On July 1 there were 16 percent more cattle on feed than a year earlier. Since then, marketings have been above last year and new placements below. This is working off the back-log of long-feds, and fed cattle prices may advance near the end of this year.

Recent prices of feeder cattle have been much closer to current prices of fed cattle than was the case a year ago. Since the total supply of young cattle is a little greater than last year, prices of feeder cattle are not expected to rise continuously this fall and winter as they did last year. On the other hand, any seasonal weakness will be small.

Prices of lambs have averaged about the same as a year ago. They may continue to do so. Inventories of sheep and lambs are still being built up, and demand for replacement lambs is strong.

#### REVIEW AND OUTLOOK

##### The Hog Situation:

##### 1958 Hog Prices Best Since 1954

Prices of hogs in 1958 have continued the uptrend that began in early 1956. In several months of this year average prices to producers were above \$20.00 per 100 pounds and the average for the entire year will approximate that figure. It will be the highest average since 1954 (table 1).

Higher prices have resulted chiefly from reduced supplies. Following the fall of 1955, when hog prices nearly collapsed, hog production was cut back rather sharply. Not until the spring pig crop of 1958 did production turn upward, and that crop was still  $8\frac{1}{2}$  percent smaller than the 1955 spring crop.

In relation to the larger consuming population of 1958, recent production has been a good deal smaller than 1955-56. Pork output per person for the fall and early winter season this year will be down from 1955-56 by around 18 percent.



Table 1.--Number pigs saved, spring pig crops of 1953-58, and pork supplies and hog prices the following September-February; and calculated supplies at four sizes of the spring crop of 1959

Year	Spring pig crop		Total or average for following Sept.-Feb.				
	Number	Percent- age change from previous year	Commercial slaughter		Consumption: of commer- cially produced pork per person	Retail price of pork, per pound	Price received by farmers for hogs, per 100 pounds
			Number	Pork produced			
	1,000 head	Pct.	1,000 head	Mil. lb.	Lb.	Cents	Dol.
1953	47,940	-13.0	35,035	4,683	27.9	65.7	23.10
1954	52,852	10.2	38,941	5,244	30.1	58.4	17.80
1955	57,690	9.2	45,296	5,954	33.9	51.0	12.70
1956	53,186	-7.8	40,844	5,330	30.4	55.3	16.00
1957	51,812	-2.6	38,496	5,043	28.6	61.3	18.10
1958	52,745	1.8	1/39,100	1/5,150	1/28.0	---	---
Projections according to 4 sizes of the spring pig crop for 1959							
1959	56,450	7	42,900	5,600	30.2	---	---
	58,000	10	44,100	5,800	31.2	---	---
	60,650	15	46,100	6,050	32.6	---	---
	63,300	20	48,100	6,300	34.0	---	---

1/ Forecast.

Smaller production of hogs and pork has given rise to substantially higher prices because of the nature of demand for pork. Demand is "inelastic"; it does not adjust quickly to a change in supply available. Consequently, a reduction of supply brings sharp changes in price. A 10 percent smaller supply, for instance, may result in an increase in prices of hogs of as much as 25 percent.

### Hog Production Now Increasing

Conditions have been favorable for an expansion in hog production. Not only has the price of hogs been higher than usual, but the price of corn has gradually declined. The hog-corn price ratio (U. S. farm basis) hit 20.6 last February. This was the first time since records began in 1909 that the ratio exceeded 20. The ratio has continued well above average. In August it was 17.9. The long term average is 12.5 to 13.

Hog production changes not only in response to the hog-corn ratio, but also in cycles of its own. Apparently, favorable prices must persist for a year or longer before production turns upward. Prices have now been above average for a number of months. Based on the pattern of hog cycles since the war, the stage is set for a rise in hog production in 1959.

### Fall Pig Crop Up

The increase has already begun. In June, producers planned to have 13 percent more sows farrow for the fall pig crop of this year than last. In September, reports from 9 major States indicated that the plans were being carried out, and even exceeded slightly. In those States June-August farrowings were up 17 percent from 1957, and September-November farrowings were expected to be 16 percent larger. The inventory of pigs under 3 months of age on farms September 1 was 18 percent above a year before, indicating that litters may have averaged slightly larger.

It is likely, however, that States outside the Corn Belt increased less than the 9 States which reported in the survey.

### 1959 Prices to be Lower

In late September, prices of hogs at Midwest markets were down from their July peak but slightly above a year before. Prices will continue to decline seasonally for several weeks. Their fall-season average will be about the same as a year ago.

When marketings of hogs from the fall pig crop begin early next year, prices will be lower than a year before. Prices are not expected to recover as much as usual from their late-fall low, and therefore will average lower this winter than last. Not until late spring of next year is an appreciable seasonal advance to be expected.

It is likely that prices of hogs will decline substantially next fall, when they will probably be the lowest since the fall of 1955.



1959 Spring Pig Crop  
To Increase

Prices next fall could threaten their low mark of 1955, or they could remain appreciably above it. The size of the increase in the 1959 spring pig crop will largely determine which proves true.

In September, producers in 9 States planned to increase their December-February farrowings 20 percent. This increase may in some degree reflect a further shift to early farrowings. It need not mean that the increase for the entire spring season will be so large.

On the other hand, present conditions make a very substantial rise in spring farrowings entirely possible, if not probable. Bumper feed crops being harvested this fall give an extra boost to prospective increases.

If the pig crop should expand moderately, pork supplies would not be excessive. Data in table 1 show what the supplies per person would be at four different increases in the crop. A 7 percent increase, for example, would keep supplies per person in September-February (when spring-crop hogs are marketed) about the same as those following the 1954 and 1956 crops, but well below those of 1955. If the crop should increase 10 or 15 percent, pork supplies for consumption would be greater than in any recent year except 1955, although still a little less than in that year. An increase of 20 percent in the total crop -- the same as the intended 9-State gain in December-February farrowings -- would push pork supplies per person above the 1955 mark.

Data in table 1 illustrate also the sensitivity of hog prices to changes in output of pork. As the pork supply varied between 29 and 34 pounds consumed per person, the price of hogs ranged between season averages of \$23.10 and \$12.70.

Since a moderate increase in hog production in the spring of 1959 would provide a pork supply per person higher than recently but well below the high mark of 1955, it would lead to lower prices but not to a price collapse.

In some respects a lower level of prices has been made inevitable by the reduced prices of corn. Over the years, hog production has averaged at a volume that would hold about a 13 to 1 ratio between prices of hogs and of corn. The increased production in prospect largely is an adjustment to the corn price, of the same nature as has always occurred in the past.

But adjustment of hog production frequently proceeds too fast and goes too far. This has become increasingly true in recent years, when production of hogs has taken on the pattern of a cycle. All too often, production swings too far in whichever direction it is headed.

Moreover, the hog industry has been beset not only by a sharp sensitivity to variations in supply, but also by a failure of demand to increase very much. Demand for pork has slowly given way to that for beef. Hence, if production of hogs should expand too much in 1959, prices to producers would decline severely. They could drop as low as in the fall of 1955. The danger is real, and deserves the attention of hog producers.

### Cattle-Calf Slaughter Down

Cattle inventory numbers are at the beginning of a cyclical increase. Numbers on January 1, 1959 will be higher than last January. Numbers will likely continue upward during 1959, and slaughter is expected to remain around its 1958 volume in that year. Prices of cattle, unlike those of hogs, therefore may average about the same in 1959 as in 1958.

The extent of cut-back in slaughter in 1958 that is giving rise to expansion is indicated in table 2.

Table 2.--Commercial slaughter of cattle and calves,  
by quarters, 1958 compared with 1957

Quarter	Cattle			Calves		
	1958	1957	Percent- age change	1958	1957	Percent- age change
	1,000 head	1,000 head	Pct.	1,000 head	1,000 head	Pct.
Jan.-Mar.	5,811	6,520	-10.9	2,544	3,010	-15.5
Apr.-June	5,820	6,366	-8.6	2,221	2,803	-20.8
July-Sept.	<u>1/</u> 6,300	6,898	-8.7	<u>1/</u> 2,250	3,041	-26.0
Oct.-Dec.		6,448			3,050	

1/ Partly estimated.

Percentage reduction in calf slaughter has been much greater than that in cattle slaughter. This difference is typical of the first stage of a cattle cycle.

In the first 5 months of 1958, slaughter of both fed and non-fed cattle was below last year. During June, however, marketings of fed cattle rose above a year earlier and they have since continued above. Receipts of fed steers at 7 leading markets, for example, averaged almost 10 percent below 1957 in January-May but rose to about 10 percent above in June-September (table 3).

Table 3.—Market receipts of slaughter steers and shipments of stocker and feeder cattle, 1958 compared with 1957

Period	Slaughter steers sold out of first hands, 7 markets			Shipments of stocker and feeder steers, 10 markets			Inspected stocker and feeder cattle and calves received in Corn Belt States		
	1958	1957	Percent-age change	1958	1957	Percent-age change	1958	1957	Percent-age change
	1,000 head	1,000 head	Pct.	1,000 head	1,000 head	Pct.	1,000 head	1,000 head	Pct.
Jan.-May	1,489	1,644	-9.4	386	288	34.0	1,461	1,083	34.9
June	374	310	20.6	67	51	31.4	267	160	66.9
July	380	353	7.6	60	81	-25.9	249	272	-8.5
Aug.	326	291	12.0	78	98	-20.4	364	475	-23.4
Sept. 1/	232	220	5.5	98	84	16.7			

1/ 3-week total.

Based on data to date, the inventory of all cattle and calves on farms January 1, 1959 may be expected to be at least 2 million head larger than the 94 million on January 1, 1958. It is possible that the gain will be enough to bring the January number up to around the 97 million high of 1956.

#### Cattle Going on Feed Late

For the second year in a row, cattle are late in moving into feedlots. In many years a sizable movement is underway by September. Last year the movement was slow to start, and this year it is again slow.

Until the middle of this year, shipments of feeder cattle and calves to feeding areas were above a year before. As fed cattle marketings had been small, a July 1 feedlot inventory 16 percent above 1957 was built up. About mid-year, placements dropped below last year. They remained below through August. Only in September did they begin to show an increase over last year (table 3).

As a result of these shifting trends, the cattle-on-feed inventory has probably been reduced considerably since July 1. As of mid-September, the supply of long-fed cattle remaining in feedlots probably was fairly large. However, because of the fewer July and August placements on feed, there may be an interval late this fall when few long-feds are still available and supplies of short-feds of the new season are small. This could result in higher prices for fed cattle at that time.

If new placements on feed should be delayed further, the high-price interval could last for a while. Without doubt, good ranges and plentiful grass are making it possible to hold cattle on pastures and ranges until late in the season. Also, many feeders have hesitated to pay the asking prices, which are much higher this fall than last. This too is delaying the beginning of the new feeding season.

Nevertheless, this pattern could be partly misleading. A big question is how fast cattle are put on full feed after they are bought. In some years full feeding is begun quickly, in others it starts slowly. It might start rather fast this fall.

Moreover, while total placements have been fewer, those of heavy steers have been greater. From July 1 until September 18, sales of feeder steers of 900 pounds and heavier at 10 markets were 44 percent greater than a year ago (table 4). The number of steers of 800-900 pounds was up 10 percent. All the reduction was in steers of less than 800 pounds and in calves and heifers.

It therefore is possible that any year-end gap in marketings of fed cattle will be closed quickly. While prices may climb to a temporary high, the peak will probably come considerably earlier than the late-March peak of 1958.

Until about late fall, prices may be relatively highest for lighter weight steers. Fed steers have been marketed at heavier weights this year than a year ago. The average at 7 markets was 1,105 pounds in August this year, compared with 1,080 pounds in August 1958. Discounts for heavy animals began to appear in late summer and in September were fairly wide.



Table 4.--Shipments of feeder and stocker cattle at 10 markets,  
July-September 1958 compared with 1957

Item	July-September total <u>1/</u>		Percentage change
	1958	1957	
	<u>Head</u>	<u>Head</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Steers			
1,001 lb. and up	11,397	7,358	54.9
901 - 1,000 lb.	31,532	22,472	40.3
801 - 900 lb.	46,299	42,069	10.1
701 - 800 lb.	48,270	54,813	-11.9
501 - 700 lb.	98,967	136,151	-27.3
Total	236,465	262,863	-10.0
Calves	118,834	127,127	-6.5
Heifers	54,358	64,135	-15.2
Cows	8,269	6,348	30.3

1/ Includes 3 weeks in September.

#### Feeder Cattle Prices

##### May Be Relatively Steady

Last year, prices of feeder cattle and calves began to climb in November and by late March had advanced \$6.00 or more per 100 pounds from their October level.

A similar increase is not likely this year. Feeder prices in September were at a point that allowed little or no price margin in feeding. However, calf prices are relatively stronger than feeder steer prices and will likely continue so. For the second year in a row, bumper crops of feed grains have led to a clamoring demand for feeder calves. Their prices have advanced \$2.00 or more per 100 pounds since early August, while prices of light-weight feeder steers have been steady and those of heavy feeders have declined.

Any mid-fall seasonal weakness in feeder prices will likely be small. Even though prices may increase seasonally later, the overall fall-winter pattern will probably show more stability than a year earlier.

Prices of Lambs To  
Continue About Same  
As Last Year

By late September prices of slaughter lambs had declined somewhat and were about the same as a year before. During most of 1958, lamb prices have fluctuated between a little above and a little below last year. This general relationship probably will continue.

Demand for lambs for expanding inventories or for feeding has been a strong factor in the lamb market. Recently, prices for feeder lambs at several markets have been near or even a little above slaughter lamb prices. This also was true a year ago. It reflects the alternative use of ewe lambs as feeders or as herd replacements. The number of sheep and lambs on feed January 1 was down 8 percent from January 1, 1957 as the proportion of ewe lambs added to flocks was larger than usual.

Since the 1958 lamb crop was 4 percent larger than last year's, but 1958 sheep and lamb slaughter has to date averaged 6 or 7 percent less, it appears that the January inventory is being built up faster than last year. During 1957 about a half million head were added to herds. During 1958 the increase may be at least three times as great.

Retail Price of Pork  
Lower, of Beef to  
Change Little

Retail prices of pork will decline seasonally this fall as supplies of pork increase. Their average, however, will be as high or higher than last year. Not until early 1959, when pork supplies per person rise above their year-earlier level, will prices be lower than at corresponding times of the previous year.

Retail prices of Choice grade beef declined a little this summer. The movement is temporary, as beef prices will likely remain about the same in 1959 as 1958.



New Farm Bill Provides  
For Change In Feed  
Grain Program

The Agricultural Act of 1958, recently enacted, calls for a referendum of corn producers in the 1958 commercial corn area to determine whether producers favor: (a) A discontinuance of corn acreage allotments, and a change of price supports for corn to 90 percent of the average price in the preceeding 3 calendar years, but not less than 65 percent of parity; (b) continuation of the present acreage allotment program with price supports to complying producers ranging from 75 to 90 percent of parity. The referendum will be held November 25.

If a majority of the producers voting in the referendum favor the new program (a), acreage limitations would be discontinued and supports to all producers for the 1959 crop would be based on a national average rate currently estimated at around \$1.12 to \$1.15 per bushel. If a majority favor the second choice (b), acreage allotments for corn would be in effect in the commercial area and, as now, minimum price support for compliers in this area would range from 75 to 90 percent of parity based on the supply percentage. Support outside the commercial area would be 75 percent of the rate in the commercial area, and support for non-compliers in the commercial area would be discretionary with the Secretary of Agriculture. The support rate for the 1958 crop for producers who are in compliance will be not less than \$1.36.

If growers approve the new program price supports will be mandatory for oats, barley, sorghum grain and rye for the first time. Support prices for these grains will be at levels determined by the Secretary to be fair in relation to the price support for corn, taking into consideration the relative feed value of the grain and other factors specified in the Agricultural Act of 1949 (section 401 B).

The Acreage Reserve program is due to be discontinued next year. This will tend to increase the acreage of corn. If corn growers should choose the lower supports without allotments, this too would add to the corn acreage. On the other hand, additional land has been placed in the Conservation Reserve and the new Act allows cotton growers to increase their acreage of cotton. These offset to some degree the tendency to increase the total acreage of feed crops.

The Act is expected to encourage feeding of corn and other feed grains instead of backing up so much in storage. Stocks of corn have grown at an average rate of 175 million bushels per year the last 6 years.

SELECTED DATA ON THE SIZE OF HOG OPERATIONS ON FARMS IN  
THE UNITED STATES 1/

by Victor B. Phillips and Raymond O. Gaarder  
Marketing Research Division, AMS

SUMMARY

Measured either by number of sows farrowing or number of hogs sold, hog farms have become larger. The proportion of hog farms having 10 or more sows farrowing in the spring more than doubled from 1940 to 1954. Annual sales of hogs per hog farm increased about one-fourth between 1944 and 1954. (1954 is the most recent Census year).

The North Central region has the largest hog farms. In 1954, only 18 percent of the hog farms in that region sold less than 10 hogs. In the Northeast, South, and West, the percentages were 46, 55, and 50, respectively. Those regions of small hog farms accounted for only a minor part of U. S. hog marketings, as 81 percent of all production in 1954 was in the North Central Region.

Six percent of the commercial livestock farms sold \$25,000 or more of farm products in 1954.

Farms Reporting 10 or More Spring Farrowings, 1940

In the spring of 1940, on 90 percent of all hog farms in the United States fewer than 10 sows farrowed. The other 10 percent had 10 or more spring farrowings (table 5).

About 8 percent were in the bracket of 10 to 19 farrowings. Only 2 percent of the farms had 20 or more farrowings.

The average number of spring farrowings for farms having 10 sows or more was 16. The total number of farrowings for these farms made up 40 percent of all spring farrowings. That is, the 10 percent of the farms which had 10 or more sows accounted for 40 percent of all sows that farrowed.

Hog Units Larger Now

Although total U. S. hog production has increased only gradually since 1940, the larger hog farms have become more prominent. Compared with 10 percent in 1940, by 1950 about 18 percent of all hog farms had 10 or more farrowings (spring season). And by 1954, 22 percent were of this size.

---

1/ From 1940, 1950 and 1954 Census of Agriculture.

Table 5.--Percentage of farms, average number of spring farrowings and percentage of total spring farrowings on farms with 1-9 and with 10 or more spring farrowings, 1940, 1950 and 1954

Year	: Percentage of all : Average number of : Percentage of total		: farms having spring: spring farrowings : spring farrowings		: farms having spring: spring farrowings : spring farrowings	
	: farrowings : on farms with :		: farrowings : on farms with :		: farrowings : on farms with :	
	: 1-9 : 10 : 1-9 : 10 : 1-9 : 10		: 1-9 : 10 : 1-9 : 10		: 1-9 : 10 : 1-9 : 10	
	: or more : or more : or more : or more		: or more : or more : or more : or more		: or more : or more : or more : or more	
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
1940 <u>1/</u>	90	10	3	16	60	40
1950 <u>1/</u>	82	18	3	18	42	58
1954 <u>2/</u>	78	22	--	--	--	--

1/ Census of Agriculture, 1950, U. S. Dept. of Comm., Bureau of the Census, Vol. II, General Report pp. 422-3.

2/ Census of Agriculture, 1954, U. S. Dept. of Comm., Bureau of the Census, Special Report, Vol. III, Pt. 8, p. 32. (Estimate based on only a sample of farms.)

In the spring of 1954 nearly 16 percent of the farms had 10-19 farrowings and a little less than 7 percent reported 20 or more farrowings.

On farms of 10 or more spring farrowings, the average had climbed to 18 by 1950, and the total made up 58 percent of all farrowings. (Separate data for spring farrowings are not available for 1954).

In their total yearly production, hog farms have grown in size even more than the data for spring farrowings alone indicate, since fall farrowings have become increasingly important. Fall farrowings were 58 percent of spring farrowings in 1940. For 1950 and 1954, they were 65 percent.

#### Average Number of Hogs Sold Per Farm

Census data on changing average number of hogs and pigs sold per farm are also an indicator of trends in the size of hog operations on farms (table 6). Hog producers reported an average sale of 32 hogs in 1944. In 1949, the average number of hogs sold, per farm selling hogs, declined slightly to 31, but by 1954 the average number sold had reached 40 hogs.



Table 6.--Hog production and average number of hogs sold per farm, by region, 1944, 1949 and 1954

Region	Percentage of		Average number sold per farm 2/			
	U. S. hog					
	production					
	(liveweight)		1944	1949	1954	Percentage change 1944 to 1954
	1954 1/					
	Percent		Number	Number	Number	Percent
Northeast .....	1.8		17	18	25	53
New England .....	.3		16	21	38	138
Middle Atlantic .....	1.5		17	18	24	41
North Central.....	80.7		43	46	57	33
East North Central .....	31.5		41	43	55	34
West North Central .....	49.2		45	49	58	29
South .....	15.5		15	13	16	7
South Atlantic .....	6.8		16	14	17	6
East South Central .....	5.5		15	14	16	7
West South Central .....	3.2		14	13	14	0
West .....	2.0		29	24	29	0
Mountain .....	1.0		25	20	21	-16
Pacific .....	1.0		37	31	42	14
United States .....	100.0		32	31	40	24

1/ "Meat Animals, Farm Production, Disposition, and Income, 1950-54," USDA, AMS, Stat. Bul. 184, June 1956, p. 25.

2/ Census of Agriculture, 1954, U. S. Dept. of Comm., Bureau of the Census, Vol. II, General Report, p. 509.

The average number of hogs sold by producers differs by regions. In the Northeast, hog producers sold an average of 17 head in 1944. In 1949, average sales there were 18 head, increasing to 25 head per farm by 1954. In the North Central Region, the area of concentrated hog production, sales were 43 head per farm in 1944, increasing to 46 head in 1949 and 57 head per farm by 1954. The percentage increase in numbers sold per farm was not as great in the North Central Region as in the Northeastern Region. However, since only about 2 percent of the total United States production of hogs is in the Northeastern Region, the larger percentage increase there is not important in terms of absolute numbers.

In the South, hog farmers sold an average of 15 hogs in 1944. There was a slight decline in average numbers sold in 1949. The average number of hogs and pigs sold per farm in 1954 was not much different than sales in 1944.

In the West, farmers and ranchers who sold hogs averaged 29 head in 1944. The average number of hogs sold per farm dropped to 24 in 1949, but returned to 29 in 1954.

While the average number of hogs and pigs sold per farm in the United States increased from 1944 to 1954, the increase was almost wholly confined to the North Central Region. Only there, aside from the Northeast, was any significant change in volume of sales reported.

Table 7.--Cumulative percentage distribution of hog farms, by number of hogs sold, by region, 1954

Region	Percentage of U. S. hog production (live-weight), 1954	Percentage of farms selling less than									
		5 hogs	10 hogs	15 hogs	20 hogs	30 hogs	40 hogs	50 hogs	100 hogs	200 hogs	
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	
Northeast	1.8	28	46	64	73	84	89	92	97	99	
New England	.3	38	56	68	73	80	85	78	93	96	
Middle Atlantic	1.5	27	46	63	73	84	89	92	98	99	
North Central	80.7	8	18	27	34	46	54	62	82	95	
East North Central	31.5	9	19	29	38	50	58	66	84	95	
West North Central	49.2	7	16	25	31	43	52	59	82	96	
South	15.5	27	55	70	78	87	92	94	98	100	
South Atlantic	6.8	24	50	66	75	85	90	93	98	100	
East South Central	5.5	28	56	71	79	87	92	94	98	100	
West South Central	3.2	32	61	75	83	90	94	96	99	100	
West	2.0	27	50	63	71	81	86	89	96	98	
Mountain	1.0	26	50	64	73	83	89	92	97	100	
Pacific	1.0	28	49	61	69	77	82	86	93	97	
United States	100.0	16	33	45	52	63	70	75	89	97	

Computed from Census of Agriculture, 1954, U. S. Dept. of Comm., Bureau of the Census. Vol. II, General Report, Page 505. (Data based on reports for only a sample of farms.)

Farms Classified by Number of Pigs Sold

Table 7 shows the percentage distribution of farms by number of hogs sold in 1954, by region. (Comparable data for other years are not available).

In that year, 16 percent of the farms in the Census sample reporting hog sales sold fewer than 5 hogs, about 33 percent sold fewer than 10 hogs, and slightly more than one-half of the farms sold fewer than 20 hogs. One-fourth of the farms sold 50 hogs or more. Only 3 percent of the farms sold 200 hogs or more.

The larger size of hog farms in the North Central Region is illustrated by the fact that only 8 percent sold less than 5 hogs in 1954, and 18 percent less than 10 hogs.

Hog Sales of Commercial Livestock Farms

In 1954, commercial livestock farms, as defined by the census, represented 36 percent of all commercial farms. <sup>2/</sup> These farms accounted for 64 percent of all hogs sold by commercial farms in 1954. During that year an average of 80 hogs was sold per livestock farm.

In the same year, class 1 commercial livestock farms (farms with \$25,000 or more of sales) represented 6 percent of all commercial livestock farms and accounted for one-fifth of all hogs sold by commercial livestock farms (table 8). An average of 274 hogs was sold by the farms in this class. Classes 2, 3, and 4 farms each accounted for a little over one-fifth of all commercial livestock farms. The rest were classes 5 and 6. Class 2 farms sold over one-third of all the hogs and pigs sold by commercial livestock farms, while class 4 farms sold less than one-eighth.

---

<sup>2/</sup> See footnote, table 8, for definition of commercial farms.





## Supply and distribution of meat, by months, 1958

Period	Commercially produced								Total <sup>2/</sup>	
	Supply			Distribution					Civilian consumption	
	Production	Beginning stocks	Imports	Exports and shipments	Ending stocks	Military	Civilian consumption		Production	Total
							Total	Per person <sup>1/</sup>		Per person
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
Beef:										
April	1,024	110	62	3	103	28	1,062	6.2	---	---
May	1,062	103	61	4	100	27	1,095	6.4	---	---
June	1,079	100	63	3	108	29	1,102	6.4	---	---
2nd quarter	3,165	110	186	10	108	84	3,259	19.0		3/19.5
July	1,148	108		3	112	41				
August		112			120	25				
September										
3rd quarter										
Veal:										
April	91	9	1	4/	9	5	87	.5	---	---
May	90	9	1	4/	7	3	90	.5	---	---
June	91	7	4/	4/	8	4	86	.5	---	---
2nd quarter	272	9	2	4/	8	12	263	1.5		3/ 1.6
July	96	8		4/	7	5				
August		7			7	4				
September										
3rd quarter										
Lamb and mutton:										
April	65	5	2	4/	7	4/	65	.4	---	---
May	62	7	5	4/	10	4/	64	.4	---	---
June	55	10	3	1	12	1	54	.3	---	---
2nd quarter	182	5	10	1	12	1	183	1.1		3/ 1.1
July	53	12		4/	10	4/				
August		10			11	4/				
September										
3rd quarter										
Pork:										
April	807	224	16	8	260	15	764	4.5	---	---
May	734	260	17	9	243	14	745	4.4	---	---
June	710	243	15	11	210	17	730	4.3	---	---
2nd quarter	2,251	224	48	28	210	46	2,239	13.1		3/14.2
July	714	210		9	173	24				
August		173			146	12				
September										
3rd quarter										
All meat:										
April	1,987	348	81	11	379	48	1,978	11.6	---	---
May	1,948	379	84	13	360	44	1,994	11.7	---	---
June	1,935	360	81	15	338	51	1,972	11.5	---	---
2nd quarter	5,870	348	246	39	338	143	5,944	34.7		3/36.5
July	2,011	338		12	302	70				
August		302			284	41				
September										
3rd quarter										

<sup>1/</sup> Derived from estimates by months of population eating out of civilian food supplies, unadjusted for underenumeration.

<sup>2/</sup> Includes production and consumption from farm slaughter.

<sup>3/</sup> Estimated.

<sup>4/</sup> Less than 500,000 pounds.

## Selected price statistics for meat animals and meat

Item	Unit	1957		1958	
		July	August	June	July
				August	
Cattle and calves					
Beef steers, slaughter	Dollars per				
Chicago, Prime	100 pounds	26.88	27.72	30.40	28.34
Choice	do.	25.12	25.63	28.07	26.99
Good	do.	23.30	23.43	26.49	25.92
Standard	do.	21.15	20.85	24.36	24.40
Commercial	do.	—	—	—	—
Utility	do.	18.42	17.78	22.77	22.80
All grades	do.	24.76	25.45	27.67	26.75
Omaha, all grades	do.	23.79	24.20	25.95	25.23
Sioux City, all grades	do.	23.76	24.33	26.25	25.49
Cows, Chicago					
Commercial	do.	15.57	15.51	21.18	20.23
Utility	do.	14.36	13.91	19.94	18.89
Canner and Cutter	do.	12.78	12.02	17.88	16.87
Vealers, Choice, Chicago	do.	23.40	24.52	31.12	30.72
Stocker and feeder steers, Kansas City 1/	do.	20.74	20.33	25.38	25.43
Price received by farmers					
Beef cattle	do.	18.40	18.20	22.30	22.20
Calves	do.	18.80	19.00	24.70	25.10
Hogs					
Barrows and gilts					
Chicago					
160-180 pounds	do.	19.38	18.68	22.31	21.87
180-200 pounds	do.	20.82	20.68	23.44	23.15
200-220 pounds	do.	21.29	21.42	23.68	23.52
220-240 pounds	do.	21.27	21.55	23.52	23.50
240-270 pounds	do.	20.93	21.50	22.91	23.23
270-300 pounds	do.	20.40	21.14	23.32	22.73
All weights	do.	20.84	21.31	23.06	23.22
8 markets 2/	do.	20.79	21.27	22.97	23.12
Sows, Chicago	do.	17.99	19.29	19.40	20.01
Price received by farmers	do.	19.30	20.20	21.60	21.40
Hog-corn price ratio 3/					
Chicago, barrows and gilts		15.6	16.2	17.1	17.3
Price received by farmers, all hogs		15.7	16.4	18.2	18.1
Sheep and lambs					
Sheep	Dollars per				
Slaughter ewes, Good and Choice, Chicago	100 pounds	6.63	6.94	7.37	6.14
Price received by farmers	do.	5.83	6.16	7.19	6.81
Lambs					
Slaughter, Choice and Prime, Chicago	do.	24.01	24.53	4/25.04	4/25.00
Feeder, Good and Choice, Omaha	do.	20.60	21.14	—	4/23.64
Price received by farmers	do.	19.90	20.40	21.20	21.40
All meat animals					
Index number price received by farmers					
(1910-14=100)		297	302	348	347
Meat					
Wholesale, Chicago	Dollars per				
Steer beef carcass, Choice, 500-600 pounds	100 pounds	41.66	42.44	45.59	44.78
Lamb carcass, Choice, 45-55 pounds	do.	46.13	46.81	45.92	51.55
Composite hog products:					
Including lard					
71.90 pounds fresh	Dollars	22.97	22.83	24.89	24.91
Average per 100 pounds	do.	31.95	31.75	34.62	34.65
71.01 pounds fresh and cured	do.	26.48	27.15	28.90	29.12
Average per 100 pounds	do.	37.29	38.23	40.70	41.01
Excluding lard					
55.99 pounds fresh and cured	do.	23.97	24.69	26.43	26.65
Average per 100 pounds	do.	42.81	44.10	47.20	47.60
Retail, United States average	Cents				
Beef, Choice grade	per pound	72.4	73.4	83.0	82.9
Pork, excluding lard	do.	64.2	67.0	67.9	69.1
Index number meat prices (BLS)					
Wholesale (1947-49=100)		99.2	97.9	115.8	113.8
Retail (1947-49=100) 5/		113.2	116.3	124.2	125.4

1/ Average all weights and grades.

2/ Chicago, St. Louis N. S. Y., Kansas City, Omaha, Sioux City, S. St. Joseph, S. St. Paul, and Indianapolis.

3/ Number bushels of corn equivalent in value to 100 pounds of live hogs.

4/ Choice grade.

5/ Includes beef and veal, pork, leg of lamb and other meats.

## Selected marketing, slaughter and stocks statistics for meat animals and meat

Item	Unit	1957		1958	
		July	August	June	July
					August
Meat animal marketings					
Index number (1947-49=100) .....		116	121	104	121
Stocker and feeder shipments to					
9 Corn Belt States	1,000				
Cattle and calves .....	head	272	475	267	249
Sheep and lambs .....	do.	222	352	138	265
Slaughter under Federal inspection					
Number slaughtered					
Cattle .....	do.	1,759	1,726	1,506	1,561
Steers .....	do.	878	872	857	921
Heifers .....	do.	260	257	241	245
Cows .....	do.	572	556	382	367
Bulls and stags .....	do.	49	41	26	28
Calves .....	do.	596	615	430	435
Sheep and lambs .....	do.	1,200	1,111	1,042	1,013
Hogs .....	do.	4,185	4,418	4,209	4,326
Percentage sows .....	Percent	23	16	17	17
Average live weight per head					
Cattle .....	Pounds	963	969	997	1,004
Calves .....	do.	238	245	229	231
Sheep and lambs .....	do.	93	94	94	93
Hogs .....	do.	244	229	251	244
Average production					
Beef, per head .....	do.	536	538	564	572
Veal, per head .....	do.	134	139	128	130
Lamb and mutton, per head .....	do.	45	45	46	45
Pork, per head .....	do.	138	131	144	140
Pork, per 100 pounds live weight .....	do.	57	57	57	57
Lard, per head .....	do.	35	31	35	34
Lard, per 100 pounds live weight .....	do.	14	14	14	14
Total production	Million				
Beef .....	pounds	940	925	847	891
Veal .....	do.	80	85	55	56
Lamb and mutton .....	do.	53	50	47	46
Pork .....	do.	578	579	605	604
Lard .....	do.	146	138	148	148
Commercial slaughter 1/					
Number slaughtered	1,000				
Cattle .....	head	2,369	2,318	1,989	2,091
Calves .....	do.	988	1,010	704	735
Sheep and lambs .....	do.	1,359	1,259	1,200	1,180
Hogs .....	do.	5,032	5,310	5,010	5,162
Total production	Million				
Beef .....	pounds	1,220	1,196	1,079	1,148
Veal .....	do.	132	138	91	96
Lamb and mutton .....	do.	60	56	55	53
Pork .....	do.	687	694	710	714
Lard .....	do.	166	159	167	167
Cold storage stocks first of month 2/					
Beef .....	do.	113	106	100	108
Veal .....	do.	10	10	7	8
Lamb and mutton .....	do.	7	6	10	12
Pork .....	do.	277	204	243	210
Total meat and meat products 3/	do.	484	395	422	396

1/ Federally inspected and other commercial.

2/ September 1 cold storage stocks are as follows in million pounds: Beef 120; veal 7; lamb and mutton 11; pork 146; total 332.

3/ Includes stocks of canned meats in cooler in addition to the four meats listed.

## LIST OF TABLES

<u>Table No.</u>		<u>Page No.</u>
1	Number pigs saved, spring pig crops of 1953-58, and pork supplies and hog prices the following September-February; and calculated supplies at four sizes of the spring crop of 1959 .....	5
2	Commercial slaughter of cattle and calves, by quarters, 1958 compared with 1957 .....	8
3	Market receipts of slaughter steers and shipments of stocker and feeder cattle, 1958 compared with 1957 .....	9
4	Shipments of feeder and stocker cattle at 10 markets, July-September 1958 compared with 1957 .....	11
5	Percentage of farms, average number of spring farrowings and percentage of total spring farrowings on farms with 1-9 and with 10 or more spring farrowings, 1940, 1950 and 1954 .....	15
6	Hog production and average number of hogs sold per farm, by region, 1944, 1949 and 1954 .....	16
7	Cumulative percentage distribution of hog farms, by number of hogs sold, by region, 1954 .....	17
8	Commercial livestock farms, by economic class, United States, 1954 .....	19

## Standard Summary Tables

Supply and distribution of meat by months, 1958 .....	20
Selected price statistics for meat animals and meat .....	21
Selected marketing, slaughter and stock statistics for meat animals and meat .....	22



U. S. Department of Agriculture  
Washington 25, D. C .

Penalty for private use to avoid  
payment of postage \$300

**OFFICIAL BUSINESS**

**NOTICE**

If you no longer need this publication,  
check here ☐ return this sheet,  
and your name will be dropped from  
the mailing list.

If your address should be changed,  
write the new address on this sheet  
and return the whole sheet to:

Administrative Services Division (ML)  
Agricultural Marketing Service  
U. S. Department of Agriculture  
Washington 25, D. C.

:  
: Issue dates for the Livestock and Meat Situation :  
: are January, March, May, July, August, September :  
: and November. The next issue is scheduled for :  
: release November 10, 1958. (1959 Outlook Issue) :  
: